

REMARKS

The applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, and 13-21 were pending at the time of the Office Action. In this reply, Claim 6 is amended, and new multiple dependent Claims 22-24 are introduced.

A. Drawings

Paragraph 2 of the Office Action requested labeling FIG. 1A as "Prior Art." A corrected drawing is filed concurrently herewith. Thus the objection is believed to be fully addressed.

B. Specification

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action objected to the specification for containing a hyperlink. An amendment to the specification is presented at page 2 of this reply. Therefore, the objection is believed to be fully addressed.

C. Claim Rejections

Paragraph 4-6 rejected Claim 6 as indefinite and suggested that a symbol did not print properly. Claim 6 is amended herein to include the symbol "—" to denote bitwise complementation, as used in the specification. With this amendment, Claim 6 is believed to be definite, and the objection is believed to be traversed.

D. New Claims 22-24

New Claims 22-24 are presented. Claim 22 corresponds to Claims 2-16 (excluding canceled Claim 4), arranged in computer-readable medium format, depending from Claim 19. Claim 23 is similar to Claim 22 but presented in apparatus "means" format. Claim 24 is similar to Claim 22 but presented in non-"means" apparatus format.

E. **Conclusions and Miscellany**

For the reasons given, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made.

A law firm check for applicable extra claim fees is enclosed. If fees paid herewith are missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1302 and to credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Should any additional issues remain that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at telephone number (408) 414-1080 extension 202.

Respectfully submitted,

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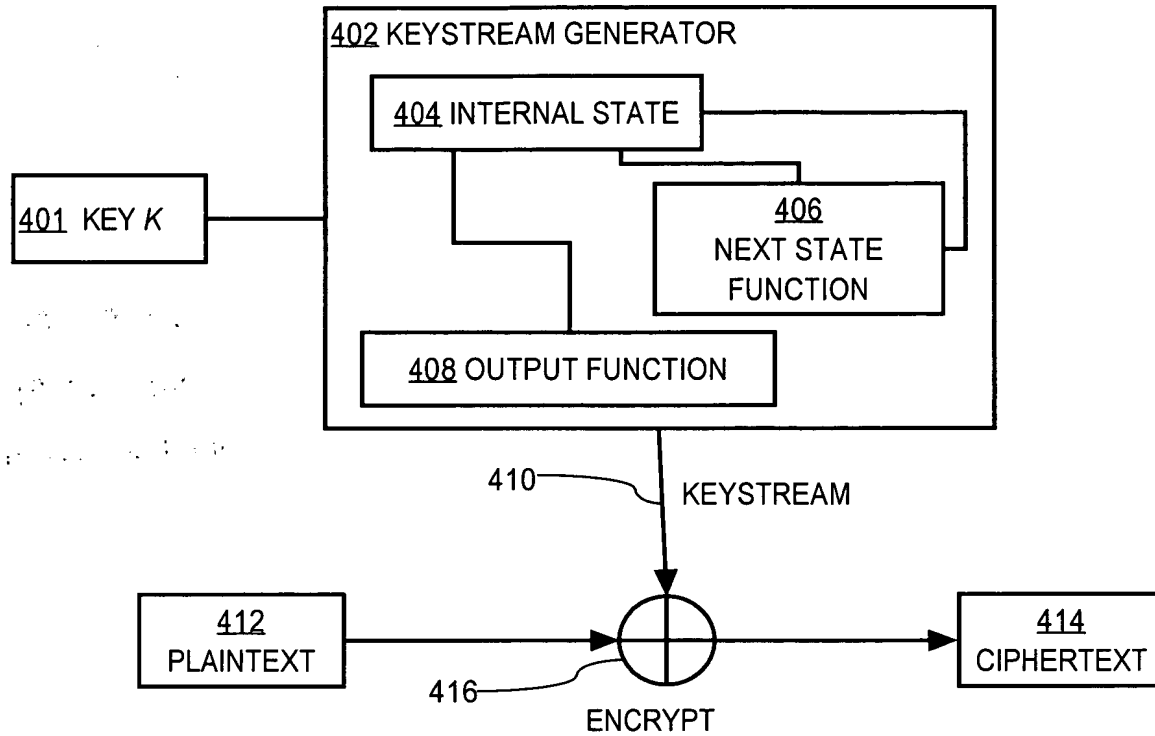
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I am mailing this correspondence by U.S. Postal Service, First Class mail, with applicable postage affixed thereon and fully prepaid, addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 12, 2004.

by 
Teresa Austin



Fig. 1A



(Prior Art)